Haverford College
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
HAVERFORD, PA. 19041 215-649-9600

29 Dec.

Dear Sylvia,

A friend sent me the cutting from Newsday. In other articles that I've read over the last month or two, Ransom's, Edwards, and Ingmar are the 3 books that are mentioned most often. Apparently, we're at least established a place for ourselves in the literature.

I found the Washington opera awfully depressing. I don't know what I expected, but it left a stale odor on my psyche -- the odor of that huge, partly empty room, and the perfervid imaginations that couldn't fill it. The next day there was a slightly ludicrous rebellion led by Skolnick of Chicago surrounded by a group of young paranoids desperately looking to him for guidance and leadership. It was reminded of Solandia.

Well, old friend, it was good to see each other and talk as we did. Let's do it again soon.

Affectionately,
Tom

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